

Remarks

Claims 1-54 and 74 were previously cancelled without prejudice prior to the final office action, and were not pending in the application as appealed. The 12 January 2010 Decision of the Board affirmed the rejection of claims 75-77, 79, 83 and 87-90. All other rejections were reversed, and some claims were the subject of objections as depending from a rejected independent claim.

Accordingly, claims 75-77, 79, 83 and 87-90 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 78, 80-82, 84 and 85 have been amended to incorporate all limitations of independent claim 75 (now cancelled) from which they depended and of any intervening dependent claim from which they depended (i.e., now cancelled claim 77 in the case of claim 78).

All claims remaining in the application after entry of this amendment either were not the subject of a rejection or were the subject of a rejection that was reversed by the Board.

The applicant thanks the Primary Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on 1 February 2010. The undersigned proposed an amendment of claim 75, but the Primary Examiner indicated that a further search would be required. It was agreed that the amendment of claim 75 would not be made in the captioned application, that claims for which a rejection had been affirmed would be cancelled, and that allowable claims depending from claim 75 would be amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 75 and any intervening dependent claims in order to put the application in condition for allowance.

The captioned application is in condition for allowance, consistent with the Decision of the Board. Entry of this amendment, reconsideration, and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 37,135

1 February 2010

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